



## ABRAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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# MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1918.

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Springfield House,

Abram, near Wigan.

28th April, 1919.

To the Chairman and Members of the Abram Urban District  
Council.

Gentlemen,

Having received the returns from the Registrar General I am enabled to give the vital statistics for the year ending December 31st, 1918, but before doing so I should like to make a brief statement regarding the general health of the district and the work done during the same period.

During the year we have had three distinct outbreaks of epidemic diseases, viz., Measles and Influenza on two separate occasions.

**MEASLES.**—This disease, as an epidemic, commenced in April, rose to its maximum intensity in May, then gradually declined until in July and August there was only one case in each month.

This disease is now notifiable by parents or guardians of children, as well as by medical practitioners. The total number of cases notified during the year (including 1 in January) was 59. There were, fortunately, no deaths, this being probably due to the Summer weather experienced during the outbreak, and consequently there not being the same number of complications such as Bronchitis and Pneumonia, which are usually the cause of fatal issues.

**INFLUENZA.**—The first outbreak occurred in July, and continued throughout the whole month, causing 4 deaths. The outbreak was similar in many respects to those of previous epidemics, but

there were three very striking peculiarities, viz., (a) the large number of young people attacked; (b) the big percentage of females over males; and (c) the very frequent occasions of Epistaxis (bleeding from the nose). The second outbreak took place in October and November. This was more severe and more widespread than the July outbreak, all sections of the community being attacked and probably owing to the colder weather experienced, and consequent attacks of Pneumonia supervening, there were more fatal results, namely, 17.

These epidemics entailed school closure on three separate occasions, for not only were the scholars attacked but the staff as well.

The Bakehouses, Cowsheds, and Dairies have been periodically visited during the year and found satisfactory.

THE MIDWIVES ACT continues to be carried out in a satisfactory manner, one case of Puerperal Fever and three cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum being notified in the practices of the various midwives.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.—Under this Act 161 births have been notified; these have all been visited by the Health Visitor, who has paid 2,598 visits.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—A tabulated statement of these cases is herewith given. They show a great decline on the cases notified in 1917.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING.—No new houses have been built during the year, and there is still a very acute shortage of working class property. The Council are now preparing to build a considerable number of houses.

VITAL STATISTICS.—According to the Registrar General's returns the population of the district is 6,626 for birth-rate purposes, and 5,914 for death-rate purposes.

The total number of deaths registered from all causes is 96—50 males and 46 females. The death-rate is 16.2 per thousand per annum, which is 4.7 per thousand higher than in 1917, but is 1.4 per thousand less than the average rate throughout England and Wales.

Eighteen of these deaths are in infants under 12 months old. This gives a rate of 112 per thousand births. This is higher by 15 than the average rate throughout England and Wales, but 17 lower than in 1917 for the district. With the increased interest in the child welfare centre, which report on the year's working I have already presented to you, I have good reason to believe this number will still be considerably diminished.

The epidemic death-rate is 1.69 per thousand, being 1.07 per thousand higher than in 1917, but .42 per thousand less than the 10 years' average. The remaining deaths call for no special comment.

Births registered are 160 in number, comprising 75 boys and 85 girls. Three of these are illegitimate children.

The birth-rate is 24.1 per thousand per annum, this being 2.6 per thousand higher than in 1917, but is 3.8 per thousand less than the average for 10 years. It is, however, satisfactory to note that it is 6.4 per thousand higher than the average throughout England and Wales.

In conjunction with this report there are Table (c) as presented to the County Medical Officer, and the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

I am,

Yours obediently,

A. O. BENTHAM, M.O.H.

NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED, REMOVED TO HOSPITAL, &c.,  
DURING THE YEAR, 1918.

No. of Cases Notified ...	...	Nil	5	2	11	8	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	3	7	3	59	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	102	
No. Removed to Hospital...	...	3			8	8														19	
No. of Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to the District	Nil	Nil			Nil	3														3	
			Small Pox	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Relapsing Fever	Continued Fever	Puerperal Fever	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	Poliomyelitis	Ophthalmia	Neonatorum	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Measles and German Measles	Whooping Cough	Dysentery, &c. (under 2 years)	Chicken Pox	TOTAL.

# NUISANCE INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

May, 1919.

To the Chairman and Members of the Abram Urban District  
Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to give below a summary of the work carried out in the  
Inspector of Nuisances and Sanitary Department for the year ending  
December 31st, 1918.

Stopped drains opened and cleaned .....	139
Drains taken up and re-laid or renewed .....	5
Premises re-drained .....	1
Ashpits and closets re-built .....	1
Defective ashpits and closets repaired .....	7
Dustbins renewed .....	3
Privies converted into water closets .....	1
Water closets repaired .....	11
Paving backyards and round gullies .....	12
Defective slop-pipes, waste pipes, and vent shafts repaired .....	6
Ventilating shafts repaired .....	3
Keeping animals as a nuisance .....	2
Poultry and pigeons removed from house yards ...	1
Defective spouts, roofs, etc., repaired .....	16
Waterlogged and foul cellars repaired .....	1
Houses limewashed .....	6
Houses overcrowded .....	1
Dirty premises and foul privies .....	20
Accumulation of manure and filth .....	2
Old drains tested with smoke machine .....	2



Only 25 legal notices have been served for the abatement of nuisances.

SEWERS.—A relief sewer about 250 yards long has been laid near Bickershaw Hall.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.—These works continue to be satisfactory, and samples taken by the Mersey and Irwell Inspectors have been classed as good.

#### FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

##### Workshops :—

Dressmaker .....	1	
Tinsmith .....	1	
Cloggers .....	4	
	—	6

##### Workplaces :—

Dressmakers .....	4	
Clogger .....	1	
	—	5
Bakehouses .....		7
		—
Total .....		18

DISINFECTION.—Twenty-eight houses have been fumigated with sulphur and formalin, and the following articles passed through the steam disinfecter :—

Beds .....	25
Bolsters and Pillows .....	70
Quilts .....	30
Sheets .....	11
Blankets .....	37
Pinafores .....	3
Shawls .....	5
Dresses .....	14
Underclothing .....	34
Bonnets and Caps .....	12
Coats and Trousers .....	27
Sundry Articles .....	55
Cushions .....	1

Twelve samples of new milk were submitted to the County Analyst, and all pronounced satisfactory.

The unsound meat condemned comprises 55 lbs. of beef, 40 lbs. of bacon, and 2 lbs. of cod fish.

NIGHTSOIL. Three thousand one hundred and twenty ashpits and over 3,000 bins and pails have been emptied, and 2,950 loads of refuse removed.

NEW PROPERTY.—No new houses have been erected during the year.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSE.—This has been regularly inspected. It has, however, only been used occasionally.

I beg to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. H. ROBY, Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE (C).

## COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

### Summary of Medical Officer's Report for 1918.

Urban District of Abram.

Medical Officer of Health, A. O. Bentham. Salary £50.

Inspector of Nuisances, W. H. Roby. Salary £90.

Is the Medical Officer of Health or Inspector of Nuisances away on Military Service? No.

What is the character of the Hospital Accommodation?

For Small-pox, Corrugated Iron Building.

For other Infectious Diseases, Isolation Hospital.

Is it Joint or otherwise? Not joint.

No. of Beds available for your district: For Small-pox, 4. For other Infectious Diseases, 8.

Deaths in Hospital of patients removed from your District and belonging thereto? From what causes? 3 from Enteric Fever.

How is Disinfection carried out? No. of houses disinfected? 28. Method? Sulphur. Are houses disinfected after



(a) Phthisis? Yes. (b) Measles? Occasionally. †Apparatus used for Clothing, Bedding, etc. (steam or otherwise)? Steam disinfectant? No. of articles disinfected? 324. Where is apparatus situated? At Isolation Hospital.

† If Apparatus at a Hospital is available, is it used for the disinfection of Clothing, Bedding, etc., of patients not removed to the Hospital? Yes.

Are any diseases not specifically mentioned in the Infectious Diseases Notification Act notifiable (for instance, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea, Chicken Pox, etc.)? If so, what are they? No.

Diseases specially prevalent? (1) Measles and (2) Influenza.

Period? (1) May and June; (2) July, October and November.

No. of times School Closure adopted? Five.

For what disease? Measles 1, Influenza 4.

Bacteriological Examinations. Specimens examined: Blood 1, Swabs nil, Sputum 1. Milk nil, others nil.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin Order, 1910. Is a supply of Anti-toxin kept within the district? Yes. If so, where? At Medical Officer's residence.

Amount used during 1918? 6,000 units.

"The Housing of the Working Classes Acts, 1890 to 1909."—Has your Authority determined the procedure to be adopted for the inspection of your District as required by Article I. of the Regulations of 2nd September, 1910? No.

Has your Authority prepared, as required by Article I. (3), a list of dwelling-houses, the "early inspection of which is, in the opinion of the M.O.H., desirable"? No.

Has your Authority designated an officer to undertake the special inspection of houses and to keep the records stipulated by Articles (II.) and (III.) If so, what officer? Yes. Sanitary Inspector.

Have the necessary books, forms, etc., for keeping the required records been obtained and maintained? Yes.

Action taken in 1918 under the Housing Acts: Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for purposes of the Housing Acts. (See Note †). Nil.

No. of Dwelling-houses specially inspected under Section 17 of the Act of 1909, i.e., with a view to ascertaining whether any dwelling-houses are unfit for human habitation?

Have the particulars of these inspections, as specified in Article II. (1) to (8), and Article III. (1) to (8), of the housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, been fully recorded? Nil.

No. of Dwelling-houses considered unfit for human habitation? Nil.

No. of Representations to Authority with a view to making Closing Orders? Nil.

No. of Closing Orders made? Nil.

No. of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders? Nil.

No. of Dwelling-houses put into a fit state of habitation after making Closing Orders? Nil.

No. of Dwelling-houses demolished? Nil.

General character of defects found to exist? Nil.

Is there a deficiency of housing accommodation? If so, where, and to what extent? Yes, throughout the district.

What steps are being taken to meet the deficiency? Council have arranged for six acres of land.

Number of New Houses built during 1918. By and at the cost of the District Council? Nil. By private enterprise? Nil.

Source of the Water Supply. From Rivington Waterworks.

What is its condition Good.

Possibilities of contamination? Service reservoir uncovered.

Any insufficiency, and where? No.

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year? None.

Is Scavenging and Removal of House Refuse carried out satisfactorily for whole of district? Yes.

How performed (state whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses)? Sanitary Authority.

If Privy Middens exist, are they emptied by day or night? By day.

How is the Refuse disposed of? Tips.

Has a Destructor been provided? No.

Sewage Disposal Works. Method of Treatment? Septic tanks, Bacteria Beds, and Land Filtration.

What is the character of the Drainage System? Any developments during year? Separate system in principal streets, combined system to all property.

Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system? Nil.

Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing, etc.? Sewers flushed periodically and house gullies cleaned by Council's men.

Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams? None.

Canal Boats: Number Inspected? 28. Number of Infringements of Acts? 2.

What is the condition of the Bakehouses? Good. No.? 7.

What is the condition of Slaughter-houses? Satisfactory. No.? 1. No. Registered? 1. Has a Public Abattoir been provided? No.

What is the condition of the Lodging-houses? No.? Nil.

What is the Sanitary condition of the Schools? Fair; two unpaved yards unsatisfactory.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—Are they periodically inspected? Yes. What is their condition? Fair.

Have Regulations been made under the Order of the L.G.B.? Yes. Are they enforced? Yes.

Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow. (a)

(a) Where cows are habitually grazed? 500 cubic feet.

(b) Where cows are not habitually grazed? 500 cubic feet.

Cowkeepers.—Total No. of Cowkeepers? 17. No. on Register? 19. No. of Inspections during year 30.

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers). Total No. of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors? Nil. No. on Register? 1.

Any arrangements for veterinary inspection of dairy cows? No.

Action taken (if any) as to tuberculous milk? None.

Inspection of Food.—Amount condemned or surrendered as unfit for human consumption—(a) Tuberculous carcasses and parts? Nil. (b) Diseased, unsound, or unwholesome meat (other than above)? 55 lbs. bone beef. (c) Other foodstuffs? 2 lbs. cod fish, 40 lbs. bacon.

No. of Legal Proceedings, and result? Nil.

Department of Inspector of Nuisances.—No. of Notices served? Informal 50. Statutory 25. No. of Nuisances abated 220. No. of Legal Proceedings taken, and result? Nil.

Closets and Ashpits.—Privy Middens: No. of Middens? 530. No. of Closets attached to these Middens? 825.

No. of Pail Closets? 24. No. of Ashpits (excluding Middens)? 157.

No. of Fresh Water Closets? 462. No. of Portable Receptacles for refuse? 52.

No. of Privy Closets converted during 1918? To Fresh W.C.'s 1. To Waste W.C.'s Nil. To Pails, etc., Nil.

Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion? Yes. If so, how much? Half cost.



What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new property? Fresh water.

Has the Authority adopted.—“The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890”? No. “The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907”? Yes. “The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890”? Yes.

Has a Health Visitor been appointed by the Local Council? State whether whole or part time? Yes. Whole time.

Qualifications of Health Visitor? Central Midwives' Board Certificate.

Has any, and, if so what, action been taken by the Council respecting Child Welfare Work? A Child Welfare Centre has been opened.

Has any scheme been prepared in regard to the Supply of Food and Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and of Milk for Infants? No.

Is there a District Nursing Association in the District? Yes. How many District Nurses employed? 1.

If so, does any arrangement exist between the Council and the Association in respect of Child Welfare Work? The District Nurse assists at the Child Welfare Centre.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1918. 250 yards relief sewer at Bickershaw.

Chief Sanitary requirements of District. Preventive measures for Plank Lane flooding; re-Sewering Bolton House Road District; conversion of Privy Middens.

(Signed) A. O. BENTHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

March 25th, 1919.







